

ALASKA PEOPLE

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NUMBER X

BLM Places Emphasis On Minerals

Alaska BLM's emphasis on the lands program has been heavy in the last ten years, but the merger of the onshore portion of the Minerals Management Service has added a new facet to BLM's diverse activities. Under the merger the Anchorage District Office formed a new minerals division headed by Jim Callahan. The Minerals Division is divided into two branches: 1) the Branch of Solids and Fluids supervised by Joe Dygas, and 2) the Branch of Resource Evaluation supervised by Mike Menge.

The Solids and Fluids Branch regulates all oil and gas activities on federal leases in the Anchorage district.

The Solids and Fluids Branch regulates all oil and gas activities on federal leases in the Anchorage district. Dygas' staff is made up of two petroleum engineering technicians (Chris Gibson and Joe Russell), an environmental scientist (Morris Engelke), a mining geologist (Helen Hankins), a petroleum engineer (vacant), a petroleum geologist (vacant), and a supervisory physical scientist (Joe Dygas).

Commercial exploitation of petroleum resources involves three major phases: exploration, field development, and production. ADO's Branch of Solids and Fluids is responsible for monitoring everything a lessee does from the time a lease is issued by the federal government until the oil/gas wells are terminated and the ground revegetated.

Petroleum Engineering Technician Chris Gibson of the Solids and Fluids Branch works with oil and gas companies that have leases and checks over each proposed phase of the exploration, field development, and production. He makes sure they use the proper equipment and follow all federal regulations. Exploration, field development, and production often occur simultaneously. While some wells are producing, the company continues to explore for new possibilities and to develop new wells as more oil and gas is located.

BLM inspector Joe Russell does most of the onsite monitoring such as checking meter readings on oil and gas fields to make sure the government receives the correct amount of royalties. He inspects drilling operations, well repairs, the plugging and abandonment of terminated wells; and he investigates accidents. He also checks for oil leaks, hazardous practices, and meter accuracy. If something is wrong, the inspector instructs the company to correct it. All monitoring follows nationally recognized oil and gas operating regulations entitled 43 CFR 3160.

Environmental Scientist Morris Engelke monitors the chemistry of water in rock formations during drilling. He



drilling rig in the Swanson River oil field

Willa May Shore Retires

Willa May Shore, chief of the Branch of State Adjudication, is retiring March 31, 1984. Shore has put in more time as an Alaska BLM adjudicator than any other Alaska BLM employee. Shore says, "BLM's adjudication has changed a lot over the years." Shore started out in 1956 as a status clerk in oil and gas adjudication at the Fairbanks District Office. In 1962 she moved to Sacramento, Calif., where she worked for BLM as a public contact representative. She returned to Alaska in 1965 to help adjudicate state selections in the state office. At the time she was one of four adjudicators in the state office. Shore says, "The land office manager at that time would say, 'don't bother with that now, just wait till fall when the work slacks off.'" But Shore says, "It has never slowed down; every law passed puts on additional responsibilities, and there never seems to be enough time to get everything done." Over the years Shore's section has grown from just herself to 20 adjudicators.

In 1981 she and her State Selections staff received the Department of Interior's Unit Citation Award for their outstanding work in meeting conveyance goals. Specifically, they conveyed eight

and a half million acres in a three-month period.

Shore and her husband plan to stay in Alaska after she retires. She really enjoys traveling. "I would love to see the whole world," she said. "Our home is here in Anchorage and we don't plan to sell it, but we hope to do lots of traveling both in the U.S. and abroad."

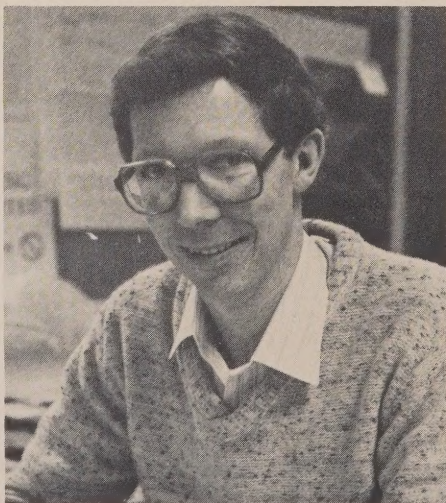


Former Deputy State Director of Conveyances Bob Arnold crowns Willa May Shore "Maid of Conveyances" in celebration of achieving the herculean goal of conveying 13 million acres to the state of Alaska in fiscal year 1982.

Stanley Bronczyk Is New Branch Chief

Stanley H. Bronczyk will take over as the new branch chief of State Adjudication when Willa May Shore retires March 31, 1984. Bronczyk has worked in several BLM positions since 1972. He has served as chief of the Easement Identification Branch within the Conveyance Program, as a supervisory land law examiner in the Nevada State Office, as a realty specialist in the Anchorage District Office, as a natural resource specialist with the Office of Special Projects until the office closed, and as a program analyst for the Division of Operations.

Bronczyk will begin work in the State Adjudication Branch on March 18, 1984.



Stan Bronczyk

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HEALTH FAIR TO BE HELD APRIL 5

The Anchorage Federal Building Health Unit is sponsoring a health fair on Thursday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the main floor of the federal building. The fair is part of the Anchorage Health Fair to be held at locations throughout Anchorage, March 31 - April 7.

The fair will include free health screenings and exhibits on health and safety. A computerized blood test measuring 24 different body chemicals to determine general health will be available at a cost of \$8. A cardiac risk profile blood test is also being offered at a cost of \$10. The cardiac risk profile determines an individual's potential risk of heart disease.

For more information visit the Health Unit (Rm 241 E) or call 271-5178. If you are interested in taking the blood tests, the Health Unit has preregistration materials available.



Grievance - A Personal Relief

by Coco Lewis

The grievance procedure is for everybody! If you are unhappy or dissatisfied over a matter that is under the control of management, you can use this option. The grievance must have two parts; it has to express why you are unhappy and what you want done to correct the situation.

There are two stages associated with a grievance - the informal and the formal. In the informal stage you speak directly with your supervisor about why you are unhappy and the personal relief sought. This often opens the lines of communication

and allows for prompt resolution in many cases.

When the resolution is not to your satisfaction, you can file a formal grievance. This must be in writing and include sufficient detail to clarify the problem. You must explain your efforts made in the informal stage and the relief sought.

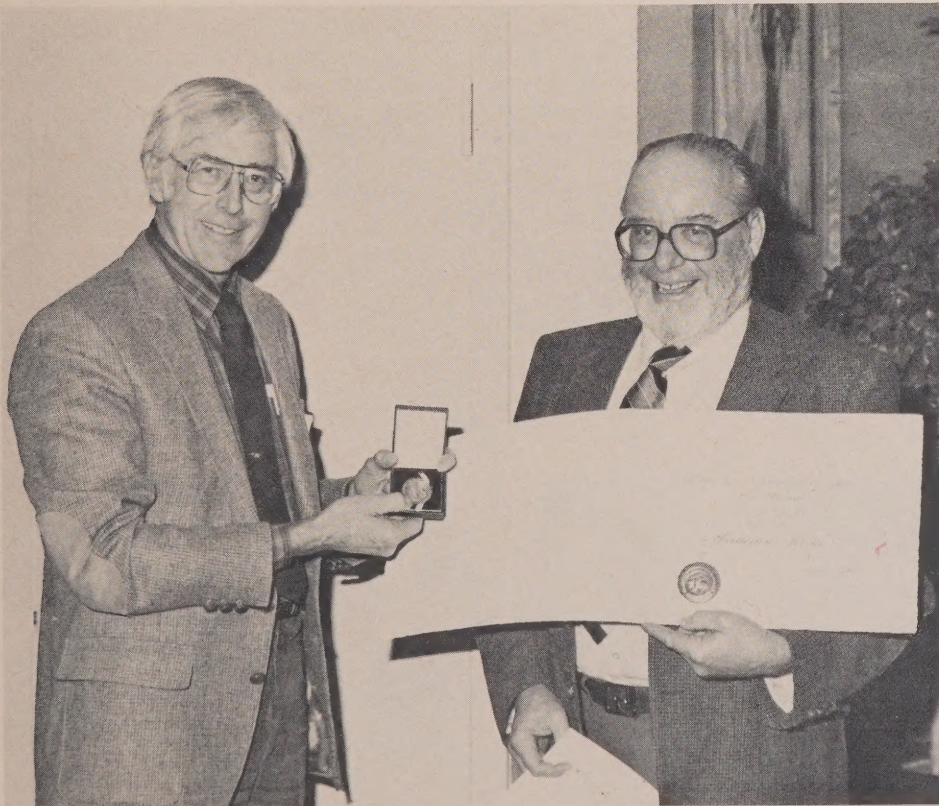
Your written grievance is submitted to the personnel officer, who processes it in accordance with BLM Manual 1400-771. Timeliness is very important. You must present your grievance orally or in writing to your supervisor within 15 days following the incident which made you unhappy. The supervisor has seven days to arrive at a resolution.

If it is not to your satisfaction, you have five days to submit your grievance to the personnel officer.

Grievances are often resolved during the informal stage. Better lines of communication are built making good working relationships and preventing problems from growing. Prevention techniques to aid this endeavor include sensitivity towards others, giving immediate attention to a potential problem rather than putting it off, being honest and open, and finally, being perceptive to what is going on around you.

For additional information contact Coco Lewis in the ASO Personnel Office at 271-5043.

Don Yingst: Meritorious Service Award



Idaho State Director Clair Whitlock presented retired Alaska BLM employee Don Yingst the Meritorious Service Award on January 27, 1984. Approximately 50 Boise area retirees and Yingst's family attended a luncheon in his honor. Whitlock wrote "Don is chipper and really seems to be enjoying retirement."

Yingst was the lead federal negotiator with the state of Alaska representing all federal agencies involved in the negotiation of a master Memorandum of Understanding to implement a schedule of land use decisions.

His work reduced federal government costs, streamlined the energy/minerals program, and unified diverse interests.

Alaska BLM State Director Raided By Keystone Cop



State Director Curtis McVee was "frisked" by Keystone Cop Wayne Boden during Fur Rendezvous week to check for a Fur Rondy button. The suspect was released after button was displayed.

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makes sure that the method of disposing of the water is within BLM and EPA regulations. Engelke also works with surface spills, oil spill cleanup and protection, and assessments and reports on the effects to the local environment. He is closely involved in writing environmental assessments for proposed oil and gas operations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 1969.

Mining Geologist Helen Hankins represents the "solids" portion of the Solids and Fluids branch. Hankins is responsible for locatable minerals and oversees resource geology work on mineral patent applications. She is also the mineral division's program leader for ADO's annual work plan.

Oil and gas production in Alaska differs from the Lower 48 in that Alaska's climate is more severe and access is more difficult. The cost of transportation, logistics, labor, and often minimal support and supply services make operations costs in Alaska very high when comparing them to the Lower 48.

For example, it cost SOHIO approximately 140 million dollars to construct an artificial island offshore of Alaska's arctic coast in order to drill a well. It might cost about 25 million to prepare and drill a well in a remote part of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. By contrast, on the Kenai where there is some industrial support and road access, a new well could cost from four to ten million dollars to drill.

Major commercial development and production in Alaska began in 1957 with the Swanson River Oil Field discovery on the Kenai National Moose Range in southcentral Alaska. In the years that followed, many federal oil and gas leases were issued throughout the state.

...the Branch of Resource Evaluation under Mike Menge does geological and geophysical research...

While the Solids and Fluids branch is responsible for the inspection and enforcement of federal laws and regulations on oil and gas leases, the Branch of Resource Evaluation under Mike Menge does geological and geophysical research and studies to assess and classify federal lands for oil, gas, and coal. Menge's staff is made up of four geologists (Art Banet, Bob Bascle, two vacancies), four geophysicists (Gary Brougham, Doug Lalla, Dave Evans, Rich Wilson), a physical science technician (Mike Simonovice), and an environmental scientist (John Caltin).

The Resource Evaluation (RE) staff develops and maintains maps depicting the economic mineral value of all the federal lands in Alaska. They have direct responsibility for determining the resource economic value of minerals for all federal lands administered by BLM, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Park Service, and the Department of Defense lands in Alaska.

Lands which are found to have oil and gas potential are classified into Favorable Petroleum Geological

Provinces (FPGPs). FPGP lands must be sold competitively when offered for lease. Menge's group determines the lowest bid the government should accept for the lands offered for lease. Lands which do not meet FPGP criteria and fall under Section 1008 of ANILCA are offered for lease noncompetitively.

The RE group monitors coal industry exploration activities, evaluates all coal underlying federal lands in Alaska, and determines if economic quantities exist.

If an area containing coal is made available for leasing, it is up to the RE staff to determine the resource economic value of the coal lands being offered.

The RE staff is also responsible for the receipt, security, and storage of geological and geophysical information received from federal permittees and lessees. They also supplement and verify information from outside sources by collecting and analyzing their own geological and geophysical data. The information is used *internally* for land use planning, mineral land classification, resource economic value determinations, and for supervision of lease operations.

ADO's new duties handled by the new Mineral Division make it the lead minerals district for BLM in Alaska. The new minerals program has energized the BLM and responds effectively to BLM's new responsibilities for onshore minerals development.



Resource Evaluation Geophysicist David Evans digitizes seismic records.



Resource Evaluation Geologist Bob Bascle interprets geophysical oil well logs.

Searching for Oil

When geologists search for Favorable Petroleum Geological Provinces (FPGPs), they look for rock layers which meet several criteria. For example, good reservoir rocks have porosity which means there must be small openings in the rock where petroleum can exist. The openings, called pores, are similar to those found in a sponge.

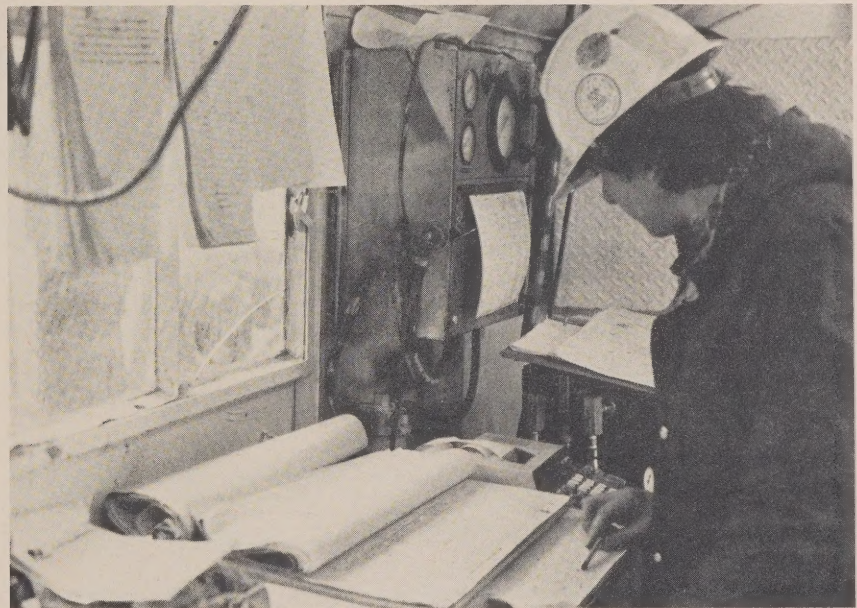
The rock must also be permeable, meaning that the pores must be connected together allowing the oil/gas to move from one pore to another. The location of the rock layer is also important. The great weight of the overlying rocks and sediments pushes downward, forcing the petroleum out of its original location where it was formed.

It then begins to migrate. Seeping through cracks and fissures and oozing through minute connections between rock grains, the petroleum begins its journey upward. In some cases it collects in large pools of tar on the earth's surface, but in other cases the upward migration is stopped by an impermeable layer of rock. It is the trapped petroleum that we drill for today.

Finding petroleum traps containing oil or gas is the challenge. Today, seismology is used to create sound waves on the earth's surface which penetrates downward into the rock layers where each formation reflects the sound waves back to the surface. Sensitive instruments record and measure the intensity of the reflections. Exploration geologists and geophysicists are able to deduce the shape and extent of subsurface formations by carefully interpreting the measurements from the sound waves. Petroleum traps often have a characteristic configuration, and readings from seismographs may reveal the existence of a petroleum reservoir.



Historical Site in Swanson River Unit.



BLM Petroleum Inspector Chris Gibson examines the drilling records.



Resource Evaluation Environmental Scientist John Catlin updates coal information for the national coal record-keeping system in Denver.



Associate District Manager for the Mineral Division Jim Callahan.



Members of the Anchorage District Advisory Council met at BLM's Anchorage District Office February 9 to listen to public comments on the controversial Irondog snowmachine race. BLMers Terry O'Sullivan and Bob Conquergood presented their findings and more than 50 people voiced their feelings.

BLM decided to issue the permit to the snowmobilers. The Irondog race begins three weeks after the start of the Iditarod race.

ACCOLADES

Awards February 1984

The following employees received a QUALITY STEP INCREASE:

Division of Conveyances--

Joyce J. Harvey, Land Law Examiner
Nellie C. Alloway, Land Law Examiner
Barbara S. Knudsen, Land Law Examiner
Rita M. Kelly, Land Law Examiner
Cynthia L. Slothower, Land Law Examiner
Linda A. Brooks, Land Law Examiner
Steven L. Willis, Land Law Examiner
Elaine O. Wilde, Supervisory Land Law Examiner

Anchorage District Office--

Kirk M. Rowdabaugh, Natural Resource Specialist
Robert H. Hale, Supervisory Realty Specialist
Kevin G. Meyer, Natural Resource Specialist

The following Land Law Examiners from the Division of Conveyances received a SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SUSTAINED SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE:

Anna M. Adams
Richard C. Sprott
Ronald E. Royer
Nora A. Vanassche
Frances (Jody) Reed
Patsy J. Pearson
Patience G. Campbell
Karen J. Collie
Helen I. Elleven
Nancy J. Alex, Supervisory
Dorothy Preston
Dana W. Martin
Sherri D. Belenski
Lorna M. Koop, Secretary

Division of Operatons--

R. Dianne Harrison, Secretary

The following Land Law Examiners from the Division of Conveyances received SPECIAL ACT AWARDS:

Suzanne L. McWilliams
Charlotte M. Pickering
Marcia K. Walker
Patricia A. Moreno

Fairbanks District Office--

Janet H. Eubanks, Legal Technician

A GROUP APPRECIATION AWARD was presented to the following employees from the Fairbanks Division of Operations, Branch of Land Office:

Lennie Eubanks, Chief, Branch of Land Office
Virginia Ezell, Chief, Section of Adjudication
Kayla Copeland, Supervisory Land Law Examiner
Patsy Lynch, Supervisory Land Law Examiner

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Betsy Bonnell, Land Law Examiner
Linda Butts, Land Law Examiner
Mary Bone, Land Law Examiner
Frank Bruno, Land Law Examiner
Mindy Gallagher, Land Law Examiner

Sharon Kendall, Land Law Examiner
Michael Kleven, Land Law Examiner
Robert Merrill, Land Law Examiner
Dorothy More, Land Law Examiner
Boyce Bush, Realty Specialist
Richard Waggoner, Realty Specialist

Deborah Jenkins, Legal Clerk (Typist)

Don Leach, Chief, Title and Records Section

Eleanor Horutz, Supervisory Land Law Examiner

Barbara Painter, Supervisory Land Law Examiner

Kenneth Butner, Cartographic-Technician Editor

Michael Cincar, Cartographic-Technician Editor

Craig Casner, Cartographic-Technician

Ella Conklin, Cartographic-Technician

Rodney Everett, Cartographic-Technician

Charles (Chuck) Green, Cartographic-Technician

Cathie Przytula, Cartographic-Technician

Paul Salvatore, Cartographic-Technician

Michael Henton, Cartographic-Technician Aide

Launa Bovard, Legal Technician

Janet Eubanks, Legal Technician

Sybil (Monroe) Skelton, Legal Clerk

Debra West, Legal Clerk

Evelyn Monroe, Docket Supervisor

Gina Ristow, Supervisory Miscellaneous Documents Examiner

Melody Engan, Legal Clerk

Donna Henderson, Legal Clerk

Bernice Parker, Legal Clerk

Lynn Sherill, Legal Clerk

Shirley Villery, Legal Clerk

Carol Nicholson, Cash Clerk

Bowman Hinckley, Contact Representative

Resources--

La Joan Hardin, Realty Specialist
Laurie Riesterer, Secretary

Operations--

Bucky Blakenship, Warehouseman
Bob Evans, Operations Service Manager

Jack Slimp, Transportation & Communications Coordinator

Mel D'Anza, Warehouseman

John Pulling, Aircraft Front Loader

Jack Rae, Warehouseman Leader

Mike Rose, Aircraft Front Loader Foreman

George Smith, Aircraft Front Loader

Becky Garner, Supply Technician

Don Lofton, Transportation & Communications Coordinator

Peninsula Resource Area--

John Merrick, Natural Resource Manager

Don Hinrichsen, Area Manager

Cliff Ells, Realty Specialist

Martin Hansen, Realty Specialist

Carl Neufelder, Realty Specialist

Bill Peake, Realty Specialist

Jan Sosnowski, Realty Specialist

Mellita White, Realty Specialist

Glenallen Resource Area--

Daryl Fish, Area Manager

Steve Durkee, Realty Specialist

Bob Lloyd, Realty Specialist

Cathy Hyland, Clerk Typist

Debbie Ball, Office Assistant

McGrath Resource Area--

Bob Hale, Supervisory Realty Specialist

Lou Waller, Area Manager

Russ Blome, Realty Specialist

Dwight Hovland, Natural Resource Specialist

Monna Ivey, Realty Specialist

Meg Jensen, Realty Specialist

Stan Nevak, Realty Specialist

Jullie Starr, Secretary

Mark Phillips, Natural Resource Specialist

A GROUP APPRECIATION AWARD was presented to the following employees of the Anchorage District Office for their contributions to the Delta, Gulkana, and Unalakleet Wild & Scenic River Reports:

Diana Harrison, Secretary, District Manager's staff

Bonnie Hill, Clerk Typist, Division of Administration

Bobbi Bradshaw, Secretary, District Manager's staff

Joette Storm, Public Affairs Specialist

Danielle Allen, Public Contact Assistant

Carol Belenski, Illustrator

Dave Dapkus, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Division of Resources

Laurie Riesterer, Clerk Typist, McGrath Resource Area

Jane Mangus, Technical Publications Writer/Editor, Division of Resources

Robin Rodriguez, Clerk Typist, Division of Operations

Virginia Moseley, Secretary, Division of Operations

Larry Kajdan, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Glennallen

Darryl Fish, Area Manager, Glennallen

Bill Ziegler, Forestry Technician, Glennallen

Cathy Hyland, Clerk Typist, Glennallen

Lou Waller, Area Manager, McGrath

Dave Kelley, Natural Resource Specialist, McGrath Resource Area

Jullie Starr, Secretary, McGrath Resource Area

PERSONAL NOTES

ADO geologist **Helen Hankins** and her husband Mike recently returned from a month's travels in New Zealand where they did lots of hiking. Helen brought back a ruler made of several types of wood from New Zealand to keep as a memento on her desk.

McGrath Resource Area's most eligible bachelor, **Mark Phillips**, gave up the title last month when he married a McGrath girl, Jennie Teague.

Peninsula Resource Area's **Nancy Jones** and her husband are taking an extended vacation to circle the North American continent by train. They will take a month to go through Canada, down to Chicago and Connecticut, then drop down to New Orleans before going west to Tucson and Seattle.

Hydrologist **Ron Huntsinger** and Recreation Planner **Terry O'Sullivan** of the Anchorage district had a chance to practice some of their arctic survival skills last month (Feb. 27) when a light plane they were traveling in broke through the ice on a remote lake near Telida. Terry and Ron unloaded the plane and pushed it so the pilot could take off, but they were stranded for awhile until a helicopter in the McGrath area was able to rescue them. The two men were doing snow depth surveys as a preliminary field check to the Iditarod Trail Race.

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A GROUP APPRECIATION AWARD was presented to the following employees of the Anchorage District Office for their efforts in the FY '83 Native Allotment Program:

Procurement--

Carmela Clary, Purchasing Agent
Anita Kovtynovich, Procurement Clerk

Charlene Montague, Motor Vehicle Operator

Delorise Parker, Clerk Typist

Linda Tope, Procurement Clerk

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ASO Division of Resources' **Bill Gabriel** is listed in the 1984-85 edition of "Who's Who in the West".

A special thanks to all the BLMers who gave blood in the March 6 blood drive!

Old friend and former ASO Chief of Cadastral, **Irving Zirpel**, recently presented State Director **Curt McVee** with a tee shirt entitled "Independence Day - 55" in reference to McVee's upcoming retirement. Zirpel is retired and lives in Portland Ore. McVee retires March 31, 1984.

NOTE FROM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A special videotape was made for the festivities at the Captain Cook Hotel March 24th to mark Curt McVee's retirement. The public affairs staff had the responsibility for creating the tape and making it as entertaining as possible. However, public affairs cannot take full credit for its production. We have to give a special - really special - thanks to all you BLMers who gave so freely of your time and considerable talents to making the program the smashing success that it was. You're a great outfit!

"WELCOME ABOARD" (January/February)



Sandor Feher, Land Surveyor ASO
Division of Cadastral Survey
Diane Oshorne, Physical Scientist,
ASO Division of Operations
Kathy Wyckoff, Miscellaneous
Documents Examiner, ASO
Division of Conveyance Manage-
ment
Christopher Pearson, AFS Supply
Technician
Kenneth Hext, Realty Specialist,
ASO Division of Resources
John Gebhard, AFS Physical
Scientist
Walter Peterson, AFS Support
Services Coordinator
Derry Burnett, AFS Supply Clerk
Thomas Goheen, AFS Supervisory
Forestry Technician
Lynette Husfelt, Clerical Assistant,
Division of Cadastral Survey
Christopher Workman, Carpentry
Worker, FDO
William Dawson, Supply Clerk, ASO
Division of Administration
Leo Chaput, General Biologist, ASO
Division of Operations
Dorothy Bonds, Clerk Typist, ASO
Division of Cadastral Survey

"MOVING ON" (January/February)



David Stephens, AFS Supervisory
Forestry Technician
Tony McNeal, Student Trainee
(Survey), ASO Division of
Cadastral Survey
Lisa Lemons, Mail and File Clerk,
FDO
Brian Samuelson, Cartographic
Technician, ASO Division of
Operations
Mark Carlton, Cartographic Aide,
ASO Division of Operations
Tamra Krzybowski, AFS Fire
Support Assistant
Donna Henderson, Legal Clerk,
FDO
James Stockie, Cartographic
Technician, ASO Division of
Cadastral Survey
Louis Waller, Realty Specialist, ASO
Division of Conveyance
Management

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